SUBJECT

Greek Army

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

EVALUATION OF SOURCE

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1. The Greek General Staff estimates that of the new classes to be valled during

- the next several months approximately 25 per cent will be reject a from regular service for security reasons (by actual refusal to accept whe rec. to on reasons) sons of "health", assignment to non-combat duby or training, etc.).
- 2. At a conference hald in the General Staff on 12 April, under the chair wahip of General Vimblis, Deputy Chief of Staff, and attended by several top 18-19-1 sentatives of the various branches of the Army, the problem of the forthings. call-ups was discussed. The Government, according to this report, is planning to call up, on 1 June, 20,000 selectoes. Under agreement with the British, the overall strength of the Army is 115,000 men. When the select to are called up, an equal number, that is 20,000 experienced soldiers, will have to be released from the service. The June call-up will adversely affect the strength of the Army for at least two months, especially at a time when this extra strength is deemed vitally necessary. In the event that the Government chooses not to release the 20,000 veterans, it will face an extremely difficult supply problem. No decision was taken on this problem at the Staff meeting the whole matter being noted for reference to the British. The various chief; of the Army branches expressed the desire that basic training camps be divided into several camps each specializing in the particular branch in which the selectee has been placed, thus allowing extra instruction in the arms and methods to be used by selectees. However, it is indicated that the British advisors are opposed to any changes of the existing system.
- Lt. Col. Georghou has recently been recalled from inactive service to assume command of the MAY Units (Rural Security Units) in the Malamata area. He is a Zervas adherent who served in the Kalamata area as a representative of Zervas during the occupation, without any notable success. It is reported that Georgios is presently trying to comply with the stated policy of the Government in that he is attempting to restrain both Right wing as well as Left wing elements. However, he is meeting particular opposition from the Right wing groups which is ascribed to the activities of Petros Mavromichalis. Mavromichalis is reportedly sending large sums of money to the Kalemata area for the maintenance of Right wing bands.
- 4. The I Army Corps has created, in the Lamia area, an administrative unit known as the Tactical Headquarters I Army Corps designed to coordinate and control directly the efforts of the 71st and 72nd Brigades. The 71st Brigade is commanded by Sakellarepoulos and the 72nd, until recently, by Antonopoulos.

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The latter was replaced at his own request, reportedly because of inability to get the cooperation of other Army units in his area. His replacement is considered a blow to the effectiveness of the Army in this region. The Tactical Headquarters is being staffed by officers from Athens, and this too is considered unfortunated in view of the fact that their familiarity with the situation is remote rather than actual.

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